

# Tjwao dialect

**Tjwao** (formerly Tshwao) is an endangered Khoe language spoken by fewer than 20 people in the Tsholotsho District of Zimbabwe, all over 60 years of age.<sup>[1][2][3]</sup> A slightly larger group of 100 have passive or partial knowledge of the language.

It is the only Khoisan language in Zimbabwe, where "Koisān" is an officially recognised language in the constitution.

Tjwao belongs to the Tshwa (Tsoa-Kua) cluster of East Kalahari Khoe languages. It is very similar to the varieties of Ganade noted by Westphal and Traill. Although mentioned by scholars for several decades, documentation of the language only began in 2012.

## References

1. "Tshawo, the Endangered Language of Zimbabwe" ([http s://www.iaaw.hu-berlin.de/de/afrika/linguistik-und-sprache n/veranstaltungen/afrikalinguistischeskolloquium/papers-wi ntersemester-2014-15/presentation\\_nyota\\_10\\_02\\_2015.p df](http://www.iaaw.hu-berlin.de/de/afrika/linguistik-und-sprache/n/veranstaltungen/afrikalinguistischeskolloquium/papers-wintersemester-2014-15/presentation_nyota_10_02_2015.pdf)) (PDF). 2015.

2. Dialogue, Radio. "Khosian Tshwao language in near extinction" ([http://www.channelzim.net/home/16-featured/4 131-khosian-tshwao-language-in-near-extinction](http://www.channelzim.net/home/16-featured/4131-khosian-tshwao-language-in-near-extinction)). Retrieved 16 June 2017.

3. "Daunting task in crafting San language syllabus" (<https://www.southerneye.co.zw/2014/05/14/daunting-task-crafting-san-language-syllabus/>). *Southern Eye*. 14 May 2014. Retrieved 16 June 2017.

Tjwao	
Tshwao	
Native to	Zimbabwe
Native speakers	<20 <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	<div>Khoe<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Kalahari (Tshu–Khwe)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>East<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tsoa<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Tjwao</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></div>
Official status	
Official language in	<span><span></span></span> Zimbabwe (as "Koisān")
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	–

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